



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 29 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
29 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel
(As of 4:30 AM EDT)

The situation has remained essentially unchanged since Eshkol's temporizing statement of last night. Arab reaction to the Israeli premier's radio address is not yet in.

Following yesterday's protracted cabinet meeting, one of Eshkol's ministers told the British ambassador that Israel will not run any ships through the Tiran Straits except within the framework of whatever international force will be created by Israel's supporters.

The cabinet minister went on to say that in the international sense Israel faces two primary needs: (a) the need for speed so that Eshkol can explain to his country why he has not already taken the initiative in attacking Egypt, and (b) for the same reason, the need to reveal more to the Israeli people about what Israel's friends plan to do to reassert freedom of traffic through the straits.

Arab mobilization continues, although some of it is probably illusory. Saudi Arabia has mobilized its forces, but this apparently means only the recall of men from leave. Egypt has now accepted one Iraqi infantry battalion which is due to land in Egypt tomorrow [redacted]

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The Syrian chief of state has left to discuss the crisis with Moscow, and the Syrian foreign minister is awaiting a reply from France before flying to Paris to consult with President De Gaulle.

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2. South Vietnam

Enemy ground activity over the weekend was limited largely to sporadic mortar attacks, terrorist raids, and small-scale unit actions in the northern provinces and western highlands. There are continuing signs, however, that a general offensive by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces is imminent. [redacted] captured documents, and statements by enemy prisoners all point to the early initiation of a country-wide summer campaign--perhaps between now and the end of the month.

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3. North Vietnam

Still more MIG aircraft have been brought into North Vietnam from China as replacements. [redacted]

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4. Soviet Union

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5. Communist China

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6. Philippines

We noted in the Brief last month that the Huks were becoming more aggressive in the central part of Luzon. Now we find that these pro-Communist terrorists are pushing their operations into several other parts of the island.

President Marcos' campaign against the Huks has yet to show much progress, and it will probably continue to be hampered by the connivance of local officials with the outlaws. The leftist resurgence is also likely to be stimulated by the government's continuing failure to implement any effective reform program in the rural areas.

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